

PLANNING YOUR VISIT

updated 10/14/2011

PARK ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER; Wilson's Creek National Battlefield
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Republic, MO 65738
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website: <http://www.nps.gov/wicr>

SCHOOL GROUPS VISITING THE BATTLEFIELD:

School groups are welcome to visit Wilson's Creek National Battlefield at any time throughout the year. However, special on-site programs are offered only between April 1st and May 30th. During this time, daily programs are provided for school groups that visit the battlefield as part of their Civil War studies. Advance reservations are required for all groups. Reservations for spring field trips may be made after October 1st. Please contact the Education Program coordinator at 417-732-2662 ext. 385. **No e-mail requests please.**

Prior to a scheduled visit please request a copy of the battlefield orientation DVD "*A Mighty Mean Fowl Fight*". All classes are asked to view the DVD prior to their visit to the battlefield. The DVD is provided at no charge and can be permanently placed in the school library (or with the appropriate department head) for future use.

All on-site programs are designed to provide opportunity for students to experience firsthand the unique resources available at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Programs provided are dependent upon the availability of Volunteer and National Park Service staff. In the event of inclement weather, please check with the battlefield prior to leaving school for possible last-minute scheduling changes. All groups should plan to arrive at the visitor center at least 15 minutes before their first scheduled program.

Teachers bringing a class to the battlefield must complete an Academic Fee waiver request form prior to their visit. Please remember that sponsoring schools and teachers are responsible for the behavior of their students and a waiver can be denied or rescinded if student behavior becomes unruly or disruptive. Read the form carefully and provide all necessary information. If you have any questions feel free to contact the Education Program coordinator for clarification.

PLAN AHEAD – *Please read carefully*

In order to ensure the optimum experience for students and teachers during your visit we suggest the following guidelines be considered when planning a field trip to Wilsons' Creek National Battlefield.

1. Choose a date and make your reservation as early as possible. Consider a 2nd and 3rd option for your visit in case your first choice is not readily available.
2. Allow a minimum of 3 ½ hours at the battlefield in order to participate in all available programs.
3. Plan to arrive at the battlefield at least 15 minutes before your first scheduled program.
4. Review the rotation schedule you receive with your confirmation letter. Contact the park ASAP if you have concerns or additional questions.

SAMPLE - Rotation Schedule for 2012 Visit to					
Date of Visit:	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4 (late arriving groups)	Group 5 (late arriving groups)
Program time: 9:30	Stop 2 - Ray House Civilians at Risk!	Stop 5-Sigel's Final Position Common Soldier	Stop 2 - Ray House Civil War Medicine	OPEN	OPEN
Program time: 10:15	Stop 2 - Ray House Civil War Medicine	OPEN	OPEN	Stop 5-Sigel's Final Position Common Soldier	Stop 2 - Ray House Civilians at Risk!
Program time: 11:00	OPEN	Stop 2 -Ray House Civilians at Risk!	Stop 5-Sigel's Final Position Common Soldier	OPEN	Stop 2 - Ray House Civil War Medicine
Program time: 11:45	Stop 5-Sigel's Final Position Common Soldier	Stop 2 - Ray House Civil War Medicine	OPEN	Stop 2 - Ray House Civilians at Risk!	OPEN
Program time: 12:30	OPEN	OPEN	Stop 2 - Ray House Civilians at Risk!	Stop 2 - Ray House Civil War Medicine	Stop 5-Sigel's Final Position Common Soldier

5. Be aware each schedule provides OPEN periods for groups to visit the Visitor Center as well as to schedule time for lunch.

IMPORTANT: If your school brings more than one bus, please remember each bus will be on a different rotation schedule. Lunch breaks should be planned accordingly. It may not be feasible for all busses in your group to lunch together.

6. Beginning with the 2012 school year, programs will have a set time to start (see sample schedule). This will provide a more standardized schedule for volunteers and staff as well as help maximize the time spent by each educational group. The first program will begin at 9:30. The last program will begin at 12:30 pm and will end around 1:15 pm.

7. Exceptions to the schedule will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Unless changes have been approved ahead of time, all groups will be expected to follow the rotation schedule provided by the battlefield.
8. Most programs should last no more than 30 minutes. However, 45 minutes is scheduled for each of the programs to allow time for questions as well as travel to the other stops.

Additional Information for Teachers

Working in partnership with local and regional schools districts, Wilson's Creek NB will provide enrichment activities for school groups that will support the Missouri State "Show-me" standards as well as include National Standards. Ultimately the goals of Wilson's Creek NB are to make the lives of teachers easier by preparing activities and/or teacher packets that create learning opportunities which support meaningful learning results

Lesson Plans

Two new lesson plan packets have been developed for the Park. One, **At What Cost Victory?**, has been written as the 150th Anniversary edition teacher packet and is adaptable to all grade levels. A second packet written for 5th grade is titled **Caught in the Middle**. Lesson plan guides and additional teacher resources are available for download from the Wilson's Creek web site, www.nps.gov/wicr

Travelling Trunks

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield has five (5) traveling educational trunks available for use in the classroom. Four (4) of these deal with the military aspect of the Park, the other deals with the civilian population at the time of the battle. There is no charge for use of the trunks. However, teachers must call ahead to reserve a trunk as well as pick up and return it to the battlefield. Reservations can be made by calling (417) 732-2662 ext. 227. The size of each trunk is 24" w x 32" l x 22" h and each one weighs appr. 50 lbs.

Classroom Programs

A classroom program can be requested in the event a school is unable to visit the battlefield or to enhance a planned visit. These are dependent upon volunteer or staff availability and are provided at no cost to the school. All requests should be made through the Education Program coordinator and at least 3 – 4 weeks before the desired date of the visit. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer off-site programs in April or May.